

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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"Modern Drawings," an exhibition of works on paper by 20th-century American and European artists, will be on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art from June 15 through August 3. The drawings, executed between 1936 and 1975, illustrate the wide range of artistic styles of the last forty years and the current tendency of artists to work in a variety of techniques not usually associated with drawing.

Among the works exhibited are drawings by modern masters Hans Hofmann, Willem de Kooning, and Josef Albers; sculptors Henry Moore, Alexander Calder, and George Segal; "pop" artists Jim Dine and Roy Lichtenstein; Claes Oldenburg; and a group of younger, less well-known artists working in Ohio, New York, and California. The earliest works in the exhibition are by surrealists Yves Tanguy, René Magritte, Salvador Dali, and Dorothea Tanning.

Of the 86 works on exhibit, three are owned by The Cleveland Museum of Art. The rest are on loan from private collectors in the Cleveland and Akron area.

According to Anne Lockhart, the Museum's assistant curator of prints and drawings, and organizer of the exhibition, "Drawing today is hard to define. In recent years the boundaries between drawing and other forms of artistic expression have been disappearing. Artists are now incorporating in their drawings the techniques of painting, collage, sculpture and photography."

Many of the works in this exhibition are done in oil, watercolor and acrylic, as well as the traditional drawing media: pen and ink, pencil, chalk, and crayon. In a few works, pieces of canvas, tape, cloth and human hair are applied to the drawing paper.

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Even the paper surface itself is used to create forms. Sarah Anne Canright's In Memory of Madame DeFarge is composed of woven quarter-inch strips of paper. Joe Goode presses two pieces of paper together, then tears away some of the top layer to reveal the paper underneath. One of the most "sculptural" drawings is Mon Levinson's Opening Ripple III. Levinson creates an effect of falling water with strips of torn rag paper.

There are, however, many works in the exhibition which fit the traditional concept of a drawing. Among them are pen and ink works by Saul Steinberg and Edward Gorey and pencil drawings by Ben Nicholson, Tom Wesselmann, Gene Davis, and John Pearson. Claes Oldenburg's chalk and crayon drawings serve the same function as many old master drawings -- as preliminary studies for works of larger scale. Although not intended as studies, the oil on paper drawings of Willem de Kooning, Helen Frankenthaler, and Franz Kline are closely related to their paintings.

"Whatever the medium used, all of the works in the exhibition have a certain freshness and spontaneity which we associate with drawing," adds Lockhart. "These drawings give us an intimate glimpse of the artist during those first moments when he is exploring his ideas on paper."

A free descriptive pamphlet containing a list of all the artists and works in the "Modern Drawings" exhibition will be available at the Museum's sales desk through August 3. The exhibition is installed in the east corridor of the print galleries on the Museum's ground floor.

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